

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME 1.

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A PAPER.

Read at the Women's Classical Missionary Society Held at Grace Reform Church Aug. 28.

BY MISS LOMA STIVER.

GHE first century has not rolled around since the first mission work began. A large number of people have worked willingly and laborously to advance the cause, while a much larger number have done little or nothing to advance it.

To know the facts of modern missions is the necessary condition of intelligent interest. Have we studied the work, and what information have we gained? The very watchword of the Christian life is obedience and our great Captain has left us His marching orders. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Will we obey? Every one can do something to fulfill the command. We may give our offerings, prayers and personal service.

The field is wide, so that we may all be enlisted in the work. There is too much work to be done to allow of delay. If we delay the links that bind us and the work together will break. What then may we accomplish?

What we need and must have is living men and women to make the *living links*. The chain has not obtained the desired length. The world has not been evangelized. The links do not lock the ports, that missionaries can not enter. China, India, and Japan have opened their doors and extended the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us."

The work is now in progress. As long as there are so many heathen, there are many links missing and not until the world is completely evangelized will the chain obtain the required length. One of the links we call *interest*. This link is not perfect. There is not enough interest manifested in the work to accomplish the desired end.

If we would send a missionary from our midst and keep up a continual correspondence besides supporting him, we would become interested probably so

much so that we would remove all obstacles and enlist in the work. Our offerings would become more liberal.

We read the letters from the missionary ladies at Sendai, Japan. Do we not enjoy them? And if we were personally acquainted we would do more for the cause.

Many mission points at home interest us, and keep us awake to missionary duty. Can we not say that mission work belongs to woman as well as man? It is said that the needle of a missionaries wife was the simple instrument God used to give access to the Oriental Zenanas. At this time the gates of steel are unlocked, and Christian women enter almost without restraint the homes of Turkey, India, and China. The girls are gathering into Christian schools; the increase in the number of female pupils is so rapid that in ten years it has doubled, and is likely to multiply far more rapidly in the near future. Is this not encouraging? What an incentive to work! If they are so willing to learn let us do whatever our hands find to do, to help them. The working force is too small. It should be increased.

We truly cannot say that too much money and too many workers go to the field. Think of it. There is one missionary to 400,000 souls. True indeed there are enough missionaries in the United States, if rightly distributed, that all might attend Christian services; while in heathen lands there are very few to expound the christian religion.

Millions have never heard of christianity. There are 856,000,000 of heathens against 620,000,000 of christians, including Mohammedans, Jews, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Greeks, etc. The heathens are dying at the rate of 100,000 a day. The christians are giving to save them at the rate of one-tenth of a cent a day. Think of the vast amount of work to be done.

Dr. Pierson says: "Even the most diligent student of missions finds that his knowledge only makes him more conscious of his ignorance, and the money given seems like a little water scattered over vast territories cursed with perpetual drought. Their offerings are put into a bag with holes; they drop out of sight and

fall somewhere, but are never traced or heard from again."

One of the practical difficulties found in the investigations of missions is the immensity of the field and its remoteness.

A great mass of the church members know nothing about the subject, and have only a vague notion that about a thousand million of souls are in darkness and destitution.

Having so much ignorance we see the need of a communication with them. Then we would learn their needs and wants.

Would it not be a grand help in the missionary cause, if each church might be linked to the heathen world by the life of some consecrated man or woman, and best of all if that person be one sent out from among their own number, known personally, whose very name would become inseparably connected with the work of the world's redemption? If the lives of Harriet Newell, David Livingstone and others make us yearn to save the lost, what would be the effect on any church from which such heroic souls went down into the mine of heathenism charging those behind to hold the ropes?

The church that sends out laborers from its own members becomes acquainted with the field,—its people, wants, discouragements, and developments, will grow in intelligence and sympathy. Such living links between the home church and the mission field are means of grace.

Trained men are needed everywhere. Those who respond to the call to labor among the heathen are generally among the poorer and less educated classes. So that after money and men are obtained it takes a long time, and is too costly to train the average workmen. The wealthy are often electroplated with avarice and the appeals ring upon a cold, hard, metallic surface, or worldly schemes, and business pursuits hold them in their coils. The Chinese school in New York City is one of the living links.

The Chinese of that city have a room where they assemble weekly and are instructed by Christian men and women.

We have many living links and by

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GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

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EXCURSION TO ISLAND PARK.

The date of the Grace Church excursion was changed from August 20 to September 12. This was done owing to the unexpected absence of the pastor at the time first appointed for the excursion. There was also an unusual amount of sickness among the families of the church at that time. We shall hope that Sept. 12 will be a pleasant day and that all our people and the friends of the church can and will take in this trip to the lake. This will be one of the last excursions of the season. The tickets issued for the former date, August 20, will be used for September 12. Train leaves the Grand Rapids depot at 8 a. m. Secure your tickets in time.

CHILDREN'S DAY.

Grace Church will observe Children's Day, Sept. 22d. We want to make this a success. To do this we need the help of the children, teachers and parents. We are almost certain that the collections will be a success. Some of our little folks have already laid by nice little sums of pennies and nickels. The children and the members of the church will be furnished with envelopes for their contributions. In the October issue of the VISITOR we will publish the amount contributed by each class. Now let us see which class will give the largest per cent. The parents and members of the church will all be asked to give liberally on that day. The money will be used to pay on our classical apportionment. At the service in the morning the pastor will give a talk to the children, and in the evening the exercises will be by the children. We want also plenty of flowers and fruit for this day.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH CLASSIS.

The attendance at the Women's Classical Society, August 28th, at Grace Church, was fully as large as could be expected. The following representatives were present from various pastoral charges of the classis: Rev. and Mrs. Rothenberger of White Pigeon, Mich., Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Skinner, Vicksburg, Mich., Rev. N. H. Loose, and Mrs. Benham of Plymouth, Ind., Miss

Loma Stiver, Millersburg, Ind., Rev. L. B. Clayton, Hudson, Ind., Rev. W. H. Xanders, Bluffton, Ind., and Rev. S. Shaw, Marmont, Ind. Also the full number of delegates from Grace Church.

The opening sessions of the society were held in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 28th. The principal object of the meeting was to complete the organization of the society. A constitution was adopted which we publish below, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. A. K. Zartman; Vice President, Mrs. I. Rothenberger; Recording Secretary, Miss Loma Stiver; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Benham; Treasurer, Miss Selina Zehner. Other business was transacted at the afternoon meeting. The ladies conversed very freely about the work of the society, and also elected delegates to the Synodical meeting to be held at Canton in October, Mrs. J. R. Skinner and Mr. A. K. Zartman, with Mrs. Rothenberger and Mrs. Paulus as alternates.

At the evening meeting, papers were read by Mrs. I. Rothenberger and Miss Loma Stiver, and an address by N. H. Loose. The singing was appropriate and spirited. Our Ladies Classical Society is now fully organized, and is certain to do good work. The society has undertaken the support of the Plymouth mission, and every congregation within the limits of the classes will be called into service to do its part. The congregations that will not be resurrected now, are certainly past all hope for themselves and the church at large, Constitution adopted by the society.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This society shall be called, The Woman's Missionary Society of St. Joseph Classis.

ART. II. The object of this society shall be to arouse the interest, and unite the efforts of the women of St. Joseph Classis in missionary work.

ART. III. This Society shall be constituted of the various Ladies Missionary Societies within the bounds of St. Joseph Classis.

ART. IV. The officers of this society shall be, President, Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and Treasurer. These officers, together with the President of Classis, shall constitute an executive committee.

ART. 5. SEC. 1. The President or Vice President shall preside at all the meetings of the Society.

SEC. 2. The Recording Secretary shall keep a complete roll of the members of the Society and a careful record of its proceedings.

SEC. 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall give notice of all the meetings, and have charge of the correspondence of the Society.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the Society, both as to receiving and disbursing, and shall make an annual report of the same. She shall pay only such orders as are signed by the President.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to prepare programmes for meetings, and to devise ways and means, of arousing interest and raising money. It shall communicate, through the Corresponding Secretary, with other Missionary Societies in order to exchange views and experiences, and thus increase their knowledge and improve their methods of work.

ART. VI. The meeting shall be held at the time and place of the annual meeting of St. Joseph Classis. The meeting shall be opened and closed by devotional exercises.

ART. VII. The officers shall be elected annually by ballot.

ART. VIII. Each missionary society within the bounds of Classis shall be represented by two delegates, at the annual meeting of the Society.

ART. IX. The wife of every minister in St. Joseph classis shall be a full member of this society, and entitled to a vote and voice in all its meetings.

ART. X. This Constitution, or any part thereof, may be amended at any regular meeting of this society, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. Respectfully submitted,

MRS. A. K. ZARTMAN,
 MRS. F. D. PAULUS,
 MISS MOLLIE BUCKWALTER,
 Committee.

The Sabbath school will have a new singing book, entitled "Sowing and Reaping." The book is furnished by the Reformed Publishing Company, Dayton, Ohio, and is having a large sale. Seven dozen books have been ordered. They will cost 30 cents per copy. The plan for supplying the school with books is that each teacher and scholar shall secure one book or more. The singing on Children's Day will be from these books. Get your books at once.

Misses Mary and Lizzie Rudisil have been quite ill, but are regaining their health. Miss Emma Neiriter was also detained from one Sabbath's service on account of sickness, but is convalescent. Mrs. Dickerson and Mrs. Ersig, also Mrs. Pratt, are quite ill. We hope they may soon regain their health.

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SERVICES.

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Sabbath evening	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening	7:30
Come, and welcome to these services.	

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D. W. SOUDER,	J. E. LONERGAN,

BREVITIES.

Children's day, September 22.

Excursion to Island Park, September 12th.

Our quarterly communion service will be held the third Sabbath in October.

The Ohio Synod meets in its next annual session at Canton, Ohio, Oct. 1.

Mrs. D. W. Souder has been very sick for some time past, but is now recovering.

Monthly meeting of the Ladies' Missionary Society Wednesday evening, September 11th.

Willis Souder returned to college to start in with his class for the fall term. Willis now enters the freshman year.

Miss Loma Stiver, of Millersburg, Ind., spent some days with the pastor's family recently. She made very many pleasant acquaintances while in the city.

The parsonage house will soon be ready to occupy. The house was to have been completed by Sept. 1st. The pastor and family are very eager to get into their new quarters.

On the evening of September 15, the pastor will give his talk on the topic, Our Boys. The young people and parents are all wanted at this service. The second topic in the series will be, Our Girls.

The pastor wants to meet all of the young men of Grace Church on Sabbath evening, September 15, at 7 p. m. Young men read the article on the "Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip," and come to this meeting.

The pastor and wife are grateful for the sympathy and prayer of the church, and friends, during the illness of their daughter Josie. And we are thankful to Him, who is the Great Healer, for returning health and strength. We have learned to know what a comfort it is to have praying and sympathizing friends in the day of affliction.

The Normal class will open for the fall term about the 1st of October. This will be the second term in the junior

year. The class will use the Beta Manual. The general outline of study for the coming term will be, The Church and The School.

First lesson, The Church, Apostolic. Second lesson, The Church, Patristic.

Third lesson, The Church, Medieval. Fourth lesson, The Church, Modern. Fifth lesson, The School; its Mission. Sixth lesson, The School; its History. Seventh lesson, The School; its Relations.

Eighth lesson, The School; its Organization.

These lessons will be full of interest. The class is becoming anxious to begin work again. Now let there be at least forty or fifty of our people enter the class the coming term. Friends of the church are also invited to join the class.

GROVE MEETING AT THE SALEM'S CHURCH.

Saturday morning, Aug. 31, dawned bright, cheerful, and warm, with the promise of a day when it would be pleasant to be out in some country grove. Accompanied by Rev. J. R. Skinner, we started out at an early hour in the morning to attend the grove meeting of the Salem's Reformed Church. When we reached the grove we found hundreds of people already upon the spacious and delightful grounds, with many more still coming. Those who were regarded as good authority estimated that the assembly would number more than two thousand people. Thirteen different Sabbath school were represented by large delegations of children, teachers, and Sabbath school workers. Some dozen or more ministers and speakers were present. Three bands were on the ground, which enlivened the occasion with very good music. Each Sabbath school in its turn furnished some excellent music. Rev. J. R. Skinner, Judge O'Rourke and others delivered some interesting addresses. At 12:30 the orders were given for an intermission and for dinner. The dinner was immense: chicken, light-rolls, cakes, pies and everything desirable, by the basketsfull. The immense crowd of people was under excellent management and the best of order was observed. Every person seemed to have a good time. It was a delightful place to meet old friends and acquaintances, and also to make new friends. Such meetings are profitable to the young and old, and we shall hope that the Salem Church shall be as successful in holding such meetings in the future, as they were this season.

A PAPER. Con. from First Page.

continual working we will gain many more.

The principal of missions is not enough however, without the spirit of missions; a law of labor for souls will not suffice without love for Christ and for souls, which is the life secret of such labor. We need co-operation.

No congregation is so small or weak that it needs or can afford to pass missions by. The weakness assigned as a cause is often a consequence of such neglect. It keeps a church weak to do nothing for those who are without, unselfish effort quickens its pulse and strengthens its sinews.

By observation it has been found that those churches that actively engage in mission work become more enthused over the work, and are always in a prosperous condition.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ANDREW AND PHILIP.

This is an institution of the Reformed Church but recently founded. This society has for its special object the spread of Christ's Kingdom among young men. It has already grown in favor with many of our most earnest and enterprising churches, and it has the promise of meeting a want of the church in this active and busy age of the world. There seems to be a need for something of this sort, to enlist our young men, and bring them into active service in the work of the church. Do not the young men of Grace Church have a need of a society of this kind, or shall it be a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor? Which shall it be? The pastor wants to meet the young men of our church Sabbath evening Sept. 15, at 7 p. m., to consult with them about the organization of a local society.

Rev. Geo. Souder, of Bellevue, O., visited for a day with the family of Elder D. W. Souder recently. We were glad to meet the brother and have a short chat with him. He reports that the work is going well with him in his field.

Secure a copy of "the new Sabbath school singing book, Sowing and Reaping," before the supply is exhausted. Price, 30 cents.

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